

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
April 21, 2014

Call to Order

Mr. David Draisen called the meeting to order and Reverend Mitchell gave the invocation after which everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present:

Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Mike Upton, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio were present for the meeting.

Ms. Dana Grant and Dr. Gary Burgess were not in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

In the absence of Dr. Gary Burgess, Board Secretary, Chairman Draisen appointed Mr. Mike Brock to serve as secretary for the April 2014 board meeting.

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mike Brock seconded motion and the agenda was approved with a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Dale Martin seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes of the March 2014 meeting.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period

Ms. Callie Nichols, a senior in attendance at the Montessori School of Anderson was in attendance with a request to make a short presentation to the board regarding information she had gathered in research during her senior project. Ms. Nichols told the Board that her project was based on poverty in education and thought the Board would be interested in her research on this issue. She continued that as a result of her findings, she had put together a plan that she had developed that could help the issue in local school districts with parental involvement in low income situations.

Ms. Nichols outlined a plan that would consist of incentives for low income families to attend a seven week program geared to provide ideas and solutions to become more involved in their child's education. Ms. Nichols also provided information on how much the resources in the plan would cost and funds in that are available already to school districts that could be used in this area.

The Board thanked Ms. Nichols for her efforts and encouraged her to continue her support towards education.

Anderson County Alternative School Report (ACAS)

Mr. Mike Brock provided board members with the April 2014 Alternative School Report and commented

that the total number of students enrolled had gone up but was expected and current student population was 125 as of April 21, 2014. Mr. Brock mentioned the total number of students served at the ACAS since August 2013 was 189. Mr. Brock also called the Board's attention to a section of the report that indicates by district and reason, the 64 students who have left ACAS as of April 21st. Chairman Draisen asked Mr. Brock was there still a waiting list for special education students and Mr. Brock stated no that they had caught up. Mr. Nimmer interjected that the current total number of students enrolled during the same time period last school year was 126 and that the middle of April is the cutoff date for enrollment at the school.

Ms. Bradberry stated that the current enrollment at Westside High School was only 15 and that she had heard some very upsetting information from a student regarding Westside's student discipline conditions. Mr. Nimmer stated that the newly placed Westside Principal was selected for his strong disciplinary background. Mr. Brock stated that ACAS Principal Dillingham has spoken about today's students and how they are much different than in previous years in the fact that show no respect to anyone. Mr. Brock told the Board that the ACAS Board has told Mr. Dillingham to release those students and Mr. Nimmer agreed because those students interfere with the students who are cooperating and willing to learn. Ms. Bradberry stated that she believed the "latch key kid" generation triggered the beginning of the discipline problems with students in the schools because they have no supervision after school and are able to do as they please and Mr. Nimmer stated that they are now joining gangs and that too was on the increase.

Mr. Brock handed out another report for the ACAS that was an analysis of the special education student population by district, school and reason for placement. Mr. Nimmer stated the report was created to follow up the Board's questions regarding the special education students and the need for an additional special education teacher at the school. Mr. Nimmer used District One's percentage of special education students at the ACAS at 19.2% as an example to show the disproportionate percentage of special education students in the District as a whole which is normally around 6%. Mr. Nimmer stated that special education students have to be handled much differently than regular students and that the districts have been sending the special education students who are chronic discipline problems to the ACAS. Mr. Nimmer stated that there was an explosion of special education students that have been sent to the ACAS and with this creating the need for another special education certified long term substitute to serve those students until the end of the school year. Mr. Nimmer stated that they will be meeting at the end of this school year and will start from square one at the beginning of next school year by sending as many of the special education students back to their districts and the districts will then handle the academic needs.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer called the Board's attention to a letter from District Three Business Manager Keith Martin to inform the County Board of Education that they will be coming before the Board in May to request the next bond issue in the series that the Board approved approximately three years ago and wanted to comply with the Board's thirty day request. Mr. Nimmer stated that the District Three Board was not meeting until tonight due to Spring Break and usually meets the week prior to this Board and then pass along for the Board's approval. This bond is third in a series of four issues that will take care of the umbrella that was previously approved for District Three's investment in Technology. Mr. Nimmer stated that the bank finances the debt and is being paid back with the bond issuances to service the debt.

Mr. Nimmer also informed the Board that a formal request has been made to the Anderson County Legislative Delegation to have former Board member Shawn McGee fill the seat left vacant by Dr. Craig Drennon. Mr. Nimmer stated that he should receive a response to the request prior to the next Board meeting.

Mr. Nimmer told the Board that the State Budget is still being debated very vigorously in the Senate and a big focus is on Governor Nicki Haley's Education Finance Plan and is a classic example of "robbing Peter to pay Paul". He stated that the Governor has reweighted the Education Finance Act and the House has concurred and passed the state budget based on Governor Haley's numbers. The net effect for the districts in Anderson County has only been a minimal increase in EFA. The base student cost this year as passed by the House is approximately \$2,120 and last year it was \$2,101 which is only a \$19 increase in base student cost. Along with that a minimum 1.5 % pay increase has been mandated for teachers that are already on the salary schedule and will leave a challenge for local school districts. Mr. Nimmer stated that the State will shift more State dollars to higher poverty schools that have underperformed in the past. Mr. Nimmer concluded that the budget still has a long way to go before being finalized but most of the net \$80 million is going to infrastructure.

Mr. Nimmer brought the Board's attention to their copy of the publication entitled "Anderson, It's Electric", in which the Anderson County Board of Education is featured. Mr. Nimmer reminded the Board that this publication is one the Board approved previously in the year to be highlighted in.

Financial

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget

Mr. Nimmer stated that all of the districts are remaining consistent as has been the case throughout the year. District Four is slightly ahead because more of their money is derived from local sources. Mr. Nimmer stated that the districts are ahead of where they were last year at this same period of time and looks like a promising trend.

B. Assessment Totals – February 28, 2014

Mr. Nimmer stated the assessment totals have been basically flat the past couple of months but should trend upward as we move to the April and May 2014 reports. Mr. Nimmer added the delay was primarily due to the fact that tax refunds came later this year and normally the refunds turn into automobile sales for some residents.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Mr. Mike Brock and followed by a unanimous vote.

Adjourn

Mr. Draisen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Mike Brock, Acting Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.